

REMARKS

Claims 6-15 are pending, with Claims 6, 7, and 12 being independent. Claims 6 and 12 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 7 has been amended and Claims 13-15 have been newly added. Support for the claim amendments and additions can be found in the original specification and, therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 7-11 are allowable. Independent Claim 7 has been amended herein to even more clearly recite features of Applicants' invention. Applicants submit that Claim 7, as amended, remains in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,984,458 (Murai) or U.S. Patent No. 6,639,340 B1 (Qiu et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, the rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-5 herein.

Dependent Claims 8-11 and 13-15 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from allowable Claim 7, as well as for the additional features that they recite.

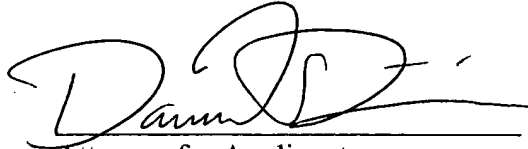
Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 7-11 and 13-15 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn Claims 6 and 12, in view of the allowability of the other claims in the application. However, should the withdrawn claims need to be cancelled to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Divine", written over a horizontal line.

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